

# The Villa de Laura Times.

VOL. VIII.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., APRIL, 1894.

NO. 4.

## FOR PRESIDENT---CHAS. R. BURGER.

THE rumor, seemingly genuine, that Charles R. Burger is a candidate for the presidency of the National Amateur Press Association has led me to ask for space in your valuable amateur journal in praise of the selection, which I hope is true. At present Mr. Burger is with a sick brother in lower California—at least when I last heard of him—and I cannot verify the rumor by personal interview.

There is not a man at the present day who more richly deserves the honor than Mr. Burger.

Amateurdom at large, and the National in particular, owe him a debt of gratitude which it can only repay by placing him in the presidential chair—the acme of honor which is only due to one so long associated with the institution of amateur journalism. Almost before the present generation of active amateurs were born, Mr. Burger was interested in the mimic art of journalism, and gradually worked through the different departments until he became the editor of *Progress*, one of the oldest and best papers published.

*Progress* was a very regular men-

thly—if I remember rightly—for a number of years, but business has converted it into a quarterly and of late years it has been published at the will of the editor. Mr. Burger has been, or is, a member of every association intended for the benefit of a. j. and in many was the foremost organizer. He was the leading spirit of the old local Amateur Associated Press, and it was here, in 1888, that I first met him. Mr. Burger was always a finished parliamentarian, and he often downed an opponent just through knowledge of parliamentary usages. This, coupled with his generosity to younger and struggling amateurs, was misconstrued into political trickery, and he gained the sobriquet of “politician of the ‘dom.”

He was continually misunderstood in the old days, through these causes, but there is not an amateur who can say one word of calumny against him.

He has given largely to amateur clubs and associations, to help them out of financial embarrassments and his kindness has rarely been adequately acknowledged.

Always alert and attentive to the

interests of the N. A. P. A.; ever ready to assist a needy meeting; always a brilliant editorialist; well known as a witty after dinner speaker and a constant attendant at all conventions, in whatever part of the Union held, Mr. Burger is certainly the right man for the right place—and that place is president of the N. A. P. A.

This letter may be regarded as a campaign document, but if so, my purpose is misunderstood. I have been prompted in addressing you through motives of friendship for a man who deserves the presidency should he consent to run.

J. H. STOVER.

#### AMONG AMATEURS.

I LIKE the spirit of the article by Mr. Baldwin in the Mid-Winter Cycle about small papers. However small a paper may be or how poorly printed; so long as it has the right spirit of a. j. and improvement, it is deserving of encouragement. If encouraged in time it will show of what it is made. It is known that the 'dom, by the actions of amateurs in frowning down small papers as not true ones, has deprived itself of many valuable recruits and future bright lights in our cause. By all means, encourage the thumb nail.

INK DROPS has come again, and is up to its usual high standard. The contents are excellent, the most interesting of which are the editors' departments. The illustrations are very good, and give the paper a highly pleasing appearance. It is always a welcome visitor whenever appearing.

IT seems that the center of activity has been transferred to the Pacific Coast, as San Francisco now claims the honor of having more papers than any other city. Chicago Indianapolis and Buffalo, the good cities of old, are now unrepresented in the amateur field. Amateurdom, like fashion, is continually changing.

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WHAT we want now is a great number of regular papers to secure the interest of recruits, and to incite our editors to greater labor. A regular paper is of more good to the amateur and recruit than an occasional paper, however fine. True, generally an amateur may appreciate a fine paper more, but seeing a regular paper will cause him to make his paper regular. A fine paper is of no good to the recruit—first, because publishers will not generally send their fine papers to recruits; and secondly, if they do, the person will not find much of our aims and happenings in one occasional issue of a paper.

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THE W. A. P. A. has "gone up" judging from appearances, not always deceptive. The E. A. P. A. has also crossed into the past, while the N. E. A. P. A. is not in the best of condition. Even the N. A. P. A. has a touch of this queer feeling—a feeling of indifferent and discouragement, owing to a lack of activity. The P. A. P. A. isn't doing much though 'tis far from being dead. The S. A. P. A., though the youngest, is yet the liveliest one of the lot. Verily the associations of a. j. have a hard road to travel.

THE RAMBLER.

# THE TIMES.

*"Retro Nulla Vestigia."*

Published monthly in the interests  
of Amateur Journalism.

**LINDEN D. DEY, Editor,**  
29 W. Adams St., Jacksonville, Fla.

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cerning amateur journalism and  
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nals, will be cheerfully furnished  
with same by addressing this of-  
fice, enclosing a stamp.

**APRIL, 1894.**

THE selection of Alson Brubaker  
by the Judiciary Committee to  
succeed John L. Tomlinson to the  
N. A. P. A. presidency, is an ex-  
cellent one. Mr. Brubaker has  
demonstrated by his past record  
his abilities and qualifications to  
carry on the duties of this office, and  
that he will successfully there can  
be no doubt. Accept our congratula-  
tions and good wishes. Mr. Bruba-  
ker, and the Association.

WE were extremely sorry to  
hear of President Tomlinson's  
resignation. He was fully equal to  
the office, and would have had a  
most successful administration.  
But he found that his business  
would prevent him from satisfac-  
torily filling the duties of the office,  
and he resigned. We admire his  
decision, and honor him the more.

TRUTH, that unique and interest-  
ing little paper from Seattle,  
comes with its last issue printed in  
colors and is very attractive. The  
editor exhibits a selfish spirit in his  
remarks regarding Mr. Simmons.  
He, or any one else, knows, even if  
he will not admit it, that Mr. Sim-  
mons has a perfect right to print  
his paper on a postal card if he so  
desires, and no one can prevent a  
person using a postal just as he  
chooses in a respectful manner. As  
for the copyrighting, a person can  
only copyright what is written, not  
the material on which it is written.  
It seems to us that the gentleman of  
the Pacific Coast has a good deal of  
that inadmirable quality, selfishness.

THE admission of Kentucky to  
S. A. P. A. territory was a  
correct move. Kentucky is a South-  
ern State for many reasons, besides  
in every geographical division ap-  
pearing among the Southern States  
and in an association representing  
the Southern States, every State  
in that region should be represented  
and have equal privileges. Ken-  
tucky should have been in our ter-  
ritory when the S. A. P. A. was first  
organized, and why it was left out  
we cannot guess. In behalf of the  
Association, we heartily invite any  
amateurs of Kentucky so inclined to  
join the Southern.

IN future the official organ of the  
Fla. A. J. A. will be known as  
The Florida Amateur, such having  
been decided upon at the late con-  
vention, as the above name will  
clearly define the paper's objects  
and position at a glance, and will  
avoid the liability of being confounded  
with professionals.

THE Mid-Winter Cycle was one of the best holiday numbers ever issued in the 'dom. It surpasses our utmost expectations as to its excellence. Though we cannot say as much as we would like in praise of this excellent number for lack of space, our opinion is just as high as if it had been expressed in many more words. The publishers deserve great credit for their enterprise.

FRED W. PRATT has demonstrated his interest in a. j. by beginning another paper, The Invisible. It is a neat well edited paper and deserves success. We hope that it will be invincible to the tendency to suspension and irregularity. In starting this paper, we hope Mr. Pratt will not discontinue The Spy, for if he does there will be nothing gained by starting another paper.

WE have received a copy of the first number of The Amateur published by Ansel R. Kline, of this city, and we welcome it to the list of Florida's amateur publications. It is quite a novelty, being hand written on a postal card. We wish the paper a long life and abundant success. Editors, place him on your exchange lists. His address being Box 394, this city.

ONE of our new papers is Alkali. Thomas Hancock editor, Edgeley, N. D. Though small in size, in the quality and quantity of its contents it stands equally with any of our papers. As an initial number it reflects well on Mr. Hancock, and we wish it a long and happy stay in the 'dom.

WE should begin now a most energetic and honest campaign for N. A. P. A. offices. There is nothing like an honest and enthusiastic campaign to arouse and maintain interest in our cause. Why do not members announce themselves candidates, several for each office, even though they do not want office, and let a pleasant rivalry spring up and a good natured campaign be carried on by each one's friends? Nothing will do the N. A. P. A. more good, incite more interest and enthusiasm in our work, the exchange of good cheer, and promote correspondence than this agency.

THE comments of Geo. A. Baldwin, in the February Cycle, on the subject of the editorial "we" in comparison with the "I" are of the best mode of thinking. With the strongest of arguments he proves conclusively that "we" is the preferable and more progressive form. It is unnecessary for us to go deep into this subject; suffice is to say that, in virtue of its many advantages, we are heartily in favor of the "we."

WE have been favored with a copy of Some Remarks published by A. W. Dennis, of Lynn, Mass. It is an all editorial paper, devoted to general and amateur topics. 'Tis the kind of a paper we like to see, though we don't have that pleasure very often.

THE latest number of Stray Thoughts, edited by Joe A. Spooner, of North East, Pa., is the best issue of that paper yet, in size, appearance and contents. We hope he will remain long with the 'dom.

# The Villa de Laura Times.

VOL. IX.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., OCTOBER, 1894.

No. 4.

## NEW YORK LETTER.

The amateurs of this wicked city were greatly amused over the awful shock sustained by a Massachusetts amateur on hearing the word "leg" used in connection with the apparent position of Capen's arm with his fair partner, in the lawn "snap shot" picture taken at Boston.

Those who have been fortunate enough to see this picture can appreciate the above. It brings to mind the objection made some time ago by the so-called cultured moralists of the Hub to Longfellow's fine poem, "The Building of the Ship," wherein he says:

She starts—she moves—she seems  
to feel  
The thrill of life along her keel,  
And spurning with her foot the  
ground.  
With one exulting, joyous bound  
She leaps into the ocean's arms.

The tremendous impetus given the Association by the President and the Chairman of the Recruiting Committee is being felt along the line and if this year will not prove a bright red-letter one for the National it will not be the fault of the above named officers, and those enthusiastic amateurs who have stood by the N. A. P. A. in all her trials.

Amoug the recruiting schemes'

was one which calls for a pledge of one dollar for every failure to propose a member—for six months one member or one dollar a month. The pledge was plainly stated on a postal card, but the Vice-Chairman to whom these cards were addressed, reported funny alterations—needless to say, unnecessary ones made by the zealous recipients. In one case, in his endeavor to bind himself to more than one member a month, an amateur wrote between lines, in loops, with numerous care's and when it was all sifted down it meant no more or less than what the printed postal card contained. Then the funny fellows came along and put the word "don't" in between "I pledge," signed their names and forwarded. These "don't" cards showed the senders' ignorance of polite and correct language, as well as their characters. One was from an amateur who was seeking the Presidency a short year ago.

Then there comes the "convulsively funny man" who scratched out every word on the postal card pledge, signed his name and forwarded. This was "buffoonery" which bordered on the insult, and if his name was mentioned it would surprise my readers. But the word "declined" is put after the name of these so-called funny men, and is so reported in the official report. These cards were intended to help

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the N. A. P. A. in a business manner and not to be disfigured by poor penmanship and ungrammatical sentences.

It is needless to dwell on the garbled and vindictive reports and comments of the Pacific Slope press on the late convention, for it is well known that the Coast has surrendered and regards votes as the best bullets. Among the western papers *Truth* (Aug. and Sep.) was found not very truthful, but an excellent sheet to make memorandum notes on.

It is somewhat of a surprise to see the slight manner in which Morton disposes of the "I vs. We" question. It was supposed he would have a decided opinion one way or the other. This college bred man had better take a course in journalism—or apply to some of our amateurs for points. In July *Prairie Breezes* he writes a good report of the convention, but mars it by an introduction, once or twice, of the great Morton, and characterises the selection of Cincinnati as unfair, and says the '95 convention was elected by a policy of selfishness.

Then he has a shot at the "Coxey movement," and compares Coxey's vagabonds, tramps and ne'er-do-wells (the most vicious class civilization has to contend with) to the honest, hard-working laborer. He's an anarchist sure, and the quicker he mingles with men of the world the better. I recommend a morning cocktail, what we sinful New Yorkers call an "eye opener," and the perusal of some of the latest French novels. As a journalist, a collegian

and an elocutionist Morton is a failure.

Among the circulars issued by the recruiting officer is one by an ex-president of the Association, of which he says: "Many hundreds of copies of this pamphlet I distributed free and it DONE good work." (The small caps are mine.) If this lapse of grammar is the result of five years in a. j. and three years in the National, it does not speak well for the educational advantages which are so highly spoken of by the advocates of a. j. There is a younger generation coming on now, and ex-presidents should set good examples.

Earnest endeavors are being made to organize local clubs and October is to be devoted to this work. In Brooklyn, 22d; New York, 23d; Jersey City, 24th. The close vicinity of these three cities and the fact that amateurs of one will want to go to the meeting of the other, it will prove a good scheme to consolidate the three nights and select one city in which to hold the grand meeting.

There never was a time in the history of the National that such vigorous work as that of the present administration was ever attempted and from the present outlook it seems as if the increase in the list of members will far exceed our fondest hopes.

And yet, there were some who criticised the "old woman" association and the "fossil" president. Such is fame! Three cheers for the "old woman" and a tiger for the "fossil!"

NEW YORKER.

Sept. 24th, 1891.

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**OCTOBER, 1894.**

## OUR EXCUSE.

WE sent the manuscript of this issue to our printers about the first part of October, expecting to receive the papers in two or three weeks, as we did the previous issue, but it came not, so after about six weeks of waiting, we sent for the copy, expecting to get some one here to do the work at once. But the rush of the holiday season took up so much of our time that we were unable to complete any arrangements. Now that the holiday season is over, we thought it best to use our spare moments in trying to catch up, rather than give it to the printer and always be behind time. Hence we appear in our old style once more, apologizing for our form and delay, and trusting you will overlook our inactivity, and for a welcome from our amateur friends.

## IN MEMORIAM.

IN the death of Mr. Franklin C. Johnson, official editor of the National Amateur Press Association, which occurred after a short illness at Nice, Italy, Jan. 6, 1895, whither he had gone to spend the winter in search of health, amateur journalism loses one of its most valued advocates and members, and the Association, one of its most painstaking officials and loyal members,

Mr. Johnson was an author of more than usual talent and versatility, ranking equally high in sketch, story, essay and poetical composition. He has always proven himself faithful to every trust as an amateur, and his future was bright indeed. As a member of the official board the editor came in constant and intimate relations with him, and has always found him the same courteous, affable, trustful friend and the same pleasant, conscientious, hard-working official.

He was universally popular in the 'dom, and the Presidency of the N. A. P. A. was open to him if ever he signified his desire of being thus honored. His death leaves a vacancy in our ranks that will be hard to fill, for such versatile talents as his are hard to find. We extend our sympathy to his family, the Association, and 'dom on their great loss.

TWO papers, Dawn and Hot Shot, are doubly welcome at this office. First, on account of being so interesting, energetic and generally meritorious; and secondly, and mainly, because they both are Southern papers, and we do like to see papers from the South, for this

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region is not so plentiously supplied with papers, and each one is a most valuable acquisition. We welcome Miss White and Mr. Davis among our editors.

**A**T the S. A. P. A. convention, held at New Orleans on Dec, 29, 1894, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing term: President, Nathan H. Ferguson, Level Plains, N. C.; first vice president, Emerson Bentley, New Orleans, La.; second vice president, Edwin Davis, Blocton, Ala.; recording secretary, Til Tiftord, San Antonio, Tex.; corresponding secretary, Ernest B. Simmons, Midland Fla.; treasurer, John T. Nixon, New Orleans, La.; official editor, Miss Stella Truman, Opelousas, La.; next meeting place, San Antonio, Tex. The board is composed of our best and most energetic Southern amateurs, under whose care our Association is bound to prosper, and may even "boom" during the coming year.

**POLITICS** bid fair to boom the coming year. Already amateurs are setting their traps for official honors. We understand that there will be four or five candidates for the National presidency, two or 'three aspirants for the official editorship, two up for treasurer, and several cities for next meeting place. While we believe politics are an advantage to our cause, it should not take the place of our literature, but should divide with it. So, while we see politics flourishing, greater efforts should be made to bring our literary work to the same healthy growth.

#### OUR LAUREATESHIPS.

**W**E agree with Miss Robbins in regard to the laureateships. If there is not enough interest to encourage writers to contest for the laureateship for the honor what's in them, it is not right to offer prizes to incite that interest, for then our authors would, very likely, lose sight of the honor of the award and work for the prize; in which case the work wouldn't be amateur in the strictest sense of the word. According to our view of the matter, our writers enter their productions not careful whether they are always their best work, as much for the improvement due to the practice of writing and of criticism and the enjoyment of seeing their own and others' articles brought into friendly competition, as to win the award. As it now is one or two awards do not prove that the recipient is the best writer in any line of work. But if prizes should be offered, every contestant would do their very best to obtain the prize; and, in this case, the winner would be considered the best writer in that class. In future contests the losers would, no doubt, refrain from entering, if the former winner should enter as he would very likely do, and then our great contest would develop into a prize "horse-race" each year with the same contestants—not more than two, but generally one—with the same winner. If there is not enough honor in the laureateships themselves, it is better that they should not be awarded, than to be coupled with a prize to bring out our literature. Our work should be done for the love of it, not for pecuniary or material inducements.

# The Villa de Laura Times.

VOL. 1X. JACKSONVILLE, FLA., NOVEMBER, 1894. NO. 5.

## SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

THE world is full of men who expect something for nothing. They are the kind who hope to reap a field full of riches by planting a solitary seed. They don't believe in the slow and steady accumulation of money but want to become well off at a single bound and without any expenditure of time or labor, and, with fond anticipations of rolling in wealth, they invest the few dollars they have in some scheme which is intended to make them wealthy in a short time, but which, too often to their sorrow, ends in their money being gobbled up by the originators of the scheme. who by fanciful tales and exaggerated stories have built up the false hopes of the deluded victim.

The frauds arising from this desire on the part of the misguided to rise to sudden affluence are being constantly practiced, for although the various devices for getting money from the victims have time and again been exposed in the public prints, there are always some people who are foolish and credulous enough to believe that there are others who will give them something for nothing.

These schemes of obtaining money under false pretences are as

varied as they are old. Some of them are moss grown with age, and the wonder of it all is that there are still folks who haven't yet learned of the oft exposed traps laid for them by the designing. The commonest of these games is the "green goods swindle." This consists in selling counterfeit money to men, mostly rustics, who buy it with the full knowledge of its worthlessness, and who expect to swindle others with it by passing it as good money. In this way the buyer, per the promise of the green goods men, is supposed to get about twenty or thirty times the amount of money he pays. When, however, the purchaser opens the package sent to him by the green goods men he finds instead of the counterfeit money he expected, either a lot of saw dust or pieces of paper cut to the size of a dollar bill but which could not be passed even on a blind man. This game would never be carried on or have grown to the large proportions to which it has were it not for the fact that there are a great many people who expect to get something for nothing. The newspapers very often contain advertisements couched in flowery language designed to raise your hopes of becoming rich in short

order and so ingeniously worded as to cause you to bite eagerly at the bait held out by anglers who are ready to inveigle you in their net and victimize you out of as much money as they can possibly lay their hands on. You are urged, you are persuaded, upon promise of having your money trebled several times over, to place your cash in a land, in a mining or in a manufacturing scheme, which to the unsophisticated seems to be a very fine and profitable investment. You are promised a thousand dollars where you invest ten. Visions of abundant wealth fit before your eyes, and beautiful castles-in-the-air form themselves in your mind. Anxious to obtain riches at one bound, intent upon getting something for nothing, and entirely forgetful of the simple but undisputed fact that people are not in the habit of giving away large amounts for small amounts, you hasten, with eagerness and dispatch, to send in your share. You receive in return a colored coupon worth, from a printer's point of view, about a cent or two, and when after a reasonable lapse of time you apply for your share of the profits which had been promised you, you are met with the stunning information that the company has dissolved. "skipped by the light of the moon," as it were. Then you go off into a corner and, in the choice language of the street, you kick yourself.

A certain class of periodicals make it a business to publish alluring advertisements of parties who pretend to give away "free of charge" gold watches, magnificent pianos, costly silver ware and other articles of value, to all who answer the "ad,"

and enclose the small amount they generally call for. Singular as it may appear, the mail of these advertisers is large and their business made remunerative because of the many people who by their own self-deception reckon on receiving something for nothing. It is not, however, until after these gullible folk part with their money and get nothing of commensurate value in return that they wish they had been wiser men.

Thus the credulity of many people in imagining that they can get a great deal for a very little serves to keep shrewd but unprincipled persons in good circumstances; it may be said, in truth, that they live and thrive on the silliness of others. Hence, beware of the man who offers to give you something for nothing. It is contrary to the rules of human conduct. It is too unnatural to be true. Therefore, be wise and shun him, for he hath evil intentions.

JACOB C. BRAND.

#### *Our Prospects.*

EVERYTHING seems auspicious for making this the most prosperous year in the history of the S. A. P. A. All the officers are going to work with a will, and the new members are beginning to roll in. The aim of the administration is to double the membership during the present term and believe they will, for President Ferguson and his fellow officers are truly hustlers. Then with plenty of entries for the laureateships to keep Mr. Bentley busy handling them, we must have our most successful year. Let us all do something to secure that end.

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**NOVEMBER, 1894.**

**N**EW ORLEANS sends forth an amateur paper again. The first number of Triplets, edited by Emerson Bentley, first vice-president of the S. A. P. A., has reached us. We heartily welcome it among our exchanges, most especially because it is a Southern paper. It should be on every amateur's list, the editor's address being, No. 727 Common St., New Orleans, La.

**T**WAS with sorrow that we heard of the death of Charles Sutter. Though we knew nothing of his abilities or work, having never seen his paper or any works of his pen, we should judge that he was a man of ability and with a bright future, from the highly complimentary notices he has been receiving in our papers, and that the Coast sustains a great loss.

**W**E were honored on February 13 with a very pleasant visit from Mr. A. W. Dennis, president of the N. E. A. P. A. and official editor of the N. A. P. A., on his way home from a brief sojourn in this State. We found him a thorough and enthusiastic amateur, a fluent talker, full of energy and ability. The time spent in his company was of great pleasure and profit to us. In Florida, where genuine and renowned amateurs are scarcely found or seen, it is a great treat to fall into the company of such an amateur, especially one so talented and entertaining as Mr. Dennis.

**T**HE AFTERMATH is without doubt one of our best papers. It is so different from the general run of our papers that its very individuality makes it the more interesting. The streakings of humor throughout its pages, together with the spice and sarcasm of its editorials make it a very valuable and entertaining journal.

**T**HE BULLETIN, an amateur weekly of Washington, D. C., is one of the most enterprising papers that reach us. In push, regularity, typographical appearance and excellence of contents, it partakes of a professional. The paper is truly a marvel of what youthful ambition, energy and perseverance can accomplish.

**W**E extend our best wishes for the highest success of the Illinois State Amateur Press Association, organized at Chicago on February 22d; and also our congratulations to George L. Colburn upon being chosen its first president.

THE appointment of A. W. Dennis as official editor is highly satisfactory. Mr. Dennis is a man of editorial ability, as his paper, *Some Remarks*, shows, and that he will fill the position with ability and success and that he will maintain fully the standard set by his predecessor, goes without saying. We thank President Burger for recognizing the abilities of our young amateurs and congratulate him upon his choice, as do we also Mr. Dennis on his appointment and the Association on securing such a talented officer.

PRESIDENT Burger's paper, *Progress*, exhibits throughout its pages the spirit of energy and progress so noticeable in his administration of affairs. Though we oppose a re-election in our amateur associations on the ground that being more on the same level as regards education, ability and qualifications, there should be more chances for our amateurs to secure the honors of our offices, we think he deserves the honor of a second term as much as any of our presidents.

THE *SEARCHLIGHT* is one of the best papers in the 'dom, as regards contents, and that is how we judge our papers. The editorials of Mrs. Lucas are dignified, convincing, composed in faultless language and show much knowledge and research and careful thought, and make her one of our best editorial writers.

THE literary character of the articles and papers of the Pacific amateurs is steadily improving.

The contents of the papers are of a higher grade, the composition and expression more nearly perfect and more original and interesting. The improvement is most noticeable in *The West*, *The Review*, *The Evergreen State*, *Thoughts*, *Liliputian* and *The Newsboy*. There is good material there to help make our National official board, and we now believe, after seeing and remedying their late mistakes, that they are made of the right kind of stuff—manliness.

**C**RITERIA is a model amateur magazine and is the nearest one to our ideal now published. The contributions are of an excellent literary standard. The editorials form a no less interesting or meritorious part of the paper, where every sphere of the 'dom fall under the editor's observation, as it always should be. We congratulate Mr. Freeman on his successful venture.

WE never knew Miss White's abilities as an editorial writer until we saw *Dawn*. Her sweet and plain womanly, yet forcible, way of putting her ideas and expressing her opinions, endears her to us all, and carries all over to her mode of thinking. The dignity and high standard of her paper places it foremost of the Southern papers.

ONE has but to cast his eye toward the South to find amateurdom's best literateurs, as their recent productions testify. We may have fewer amateurs and papers, but in common with our fellow Southerners, we believe in quality rather than quantity. And we have the former in a most satisfactory degree.

# The Villa de Laura Times.

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VOL. IX. JACKSONVILLE, FLA., DECEMBER, 1894. No. 6.

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## MOTHER NATURE'S HUMAN CHILDREN.

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HOW differently Nature affects people, according to temperament and taste! Many people have no love or regard for Nature except as she ministers to their comfort or discomfort: Such people look upon streams as being useful only to turn mill-wheels and they regard rivers as of value only to carry steamboats and freight barges. These undeveloped creatures imagine that the trees were made only to give shade, and that the sun shines that vegetation may grow.

Those who have a keen regard for the beauties of Nature are extremely fortunate. But there are those who take a genuine pleasure in the sight of a lovely flower or a gorgeous sunset, though they feel no special sentiment in connection with either. Of this class Miss Susan B. Robbins is an example, and her sketch, entitled: "Among Falling Trees," in the last Recorder, is a fair example of the feeling referred to. It is a canon of art that the faithful transcript of any fact of Nature which is not in itself repulsive, however simple and unimposing, has a distinct charm, and it is Miss Robbins' pictures of Nature as it is that are most charming.

There are some people with whom

the love of Nature is a passion, and companionship with her the compensation for a hundred deprivations. Such people find that Nature satisfies the imagination in a way that nothing else can. To them the very flowers have souls and speak to them in their own sweet way. Miss Kathleen F. Smith is of this latter class. She pictures Nature as a living, speaking thing. There is such a fragrant warmth of sunny weather, beautiful women and heroic men in her stories, that the reader is charmed into forgetting the too frequently exaggerated metaphors which are due to the personification which she gives to inanimate objects. However, all poetry, even in its most humble form, abounds with personification, and this figure adds a great charm to prose writing. When we say the earth thirsts for rain, or the green fields smile with plenty; when ambition is said to be restless, or a disease to be deceitful, we use this figure and show with what facility the mind can accommodate the properties of living creatures to things without life, or to abstract conceptions. Miss Smith is becoming a master of this style.

During the Middle Ages, when

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Europe groaned under its burden of horrid religious dogmas and superstitions, the grand scenery of the Alps excited only fear. And the Crusaders imagined the mountains of Tyrol as filled with devils and demons. This feeling toward the grand in Nature is seldom seen in our modern literature and in our amateur literature is almost unknown, although Mr. Edkins sometimes speaks in a morbid way of the bleak, blind wind and the cold, slumberous sea.

In our go-ahead time people are apt to look upon Nature with indifferent eyes. Many people when traveling through a district where the scenery is grand or beautiful, are not satisfied unless they have a crowd of companions about them. Why, I know not. That is something I can't understand. To me Nature is often vulgarized by the presence of the vulgar. For instance the enjoyment of Alpine scenery was to me much marred by the crowds of restless tourists that were always about; and in Colorado I have seen the almost sacred mystery of giant mountain peaks made a laughing stock by those about me. The presence of indifferent spectators is a vexation of spirit hard to bear by the traveler who has an eye for the grand or the beautiful.

FRANKLIN C. JOHNSON.

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#### AERIAL NAVIGATION.

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**F**AR back into oblivion is the unknown date when the first boat was launched. Before then, perhaps, steam navigation was looked upon with the same doubt that we now speak of sailing through the air.

Perhaps then when some eccentric savage announced his intention of floating down the river on a log and guiding his craft with a bough, a whole settlement turned out to see the "crank" perform the incredible feat. Now, everywhere the seas are dotted with the vessels, but the inventive genius is not satisfied—he wants to travel the air.

The subject is very seldom referred to by classical writers, and, strange to say, is broached only by the lower classes of scientific men. All the advancement that has yet been made is the works of men noticeably behind their times.

Perhaps the earliest embodiment of air navigation is the fanciful little tale of the escape of old Daedalus and his son Icarus from Minion's prison. The story runs that the old genius made, of wax and feathers, a pair of wings for each himself and son. Before starting the father instructed his son not to fly too high, but the youth, in his haste to get beyond the dominions of his captor, disregarded his father's caution and soared so near the sun that the heat melted the wax and he fell into the sea and was drowned.

The earliest air navigators, or perhaps better, would be air navigators, worked to contrive wings. After centuries of experimenting they finally concluded that man's muscles were not of sufficiency to fly so they began work upon a flying boat or air ship.

It might be well to state here that it was the belief of early projectors that the atmosphere surrounding the earth was all of the same density and very shallow. Hence, their first impulse was to get a boat to

the surface of this great belt of air; then they thought it possible to make their air crafts sail upon the surface like a ship at sea. Of course, the discovery of the barometer ruined this theory and dispelled such ideas.

To-day, the modern genius is still working upon this air ship, but it seems that success is as far beyond him as it was above the ancients.

It is necessary that a material may be found with the combined properties of lightness and strength—aluminum bronze has both these properties, and will, perhaps, constitute the material of our future flying machine—if we ever have one.

Were it possible to govern the balloon otherwise than perpendicularly, that is, if a rudder could be contrived which would guide the vessel in the wind, we might talk of the probabilities of an air ship. Until then, perhaps we had better let politics divert our attention, and let the aerial navigator enjoy the solitude of his own company, in the calm of his own existence.

GEO. L. COLBURN.

**A Girls' Enterprise.**  
WE have again been favored with another number of The Girls' Enterprise after quite an absence. The most important change we notice is in the staff, Miss Edith V. Kreiner, editor of The Study, one of the leading puzzle papers of the country, succeeding Miss M. A. Morrison as one of the editors. The editorials are interesting, forcible and with a regardlessness of fear or favor that makes them more fine to admirers of independence and the right of free speech.

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## THE TIMES.

*"Retro Nulla Vestigia."*

Published monthly in the interests of Amateur Journalism.

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Persons desiring information concerning amateur journalism and copies of current amateur journals, will be cheerfully furnished with same by addressing this office, enclosing a stamp.

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**DECEMBER, 1894.**

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**S**PEAKING of the "sense of justice," we can say something. During the entire existence of the N. A. P. A. the South, which has contributed and still does contribute some of the most talented and valuable members that the Association has ever seen, has never had the presidency once nor has this region had a convention—her only effort involving more labor and suffering a more humiliating defeat than did San Francisco's campaign last year—while every other section has had one or more presidents or conventions. Mark this, ye lovers of justice, the South must have either the next president or the next convention! And we will have one or the other, if justice prevails. Justice demands it. Mark ye this, all ye lovers of justice!

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IT is a source of delight to the average amateur editor to receive acknowledgements of the receipt of his paper from those amateurs so situated as not to be able to acknowledge their receipt by exchanging. It sets to rest any doubts as to whether or not the papers reach their destination, and is an additional impetus to continue and improve one's paper, because he then knows that there are some who find it worthy of a perusal and an acknowledgement, and that his best efforts are being appreciated by a few, at least. To those who in the past have so kindly acknowledged the receipt of *THE TIMES*, we tender our sincere thanks for their kind and thoughtful remembrance and evidences of appreciation.

INDIANAPOLIS has been very quiet for some time, which is more to be wondered at when the present amateur revival is almost universal throughout the 'dom, affecting alike recruits and fossils. Surely, this state of affairs should have some effect on Kamber, Steinberg and the other erstwhile active young ladies and men of that city. If that colony could make even a faint semblance to their once famous activity, the 'dom would be pleased.

OCEAN WAVES is one of the finest appearing papers that reach our table. It reflects much credit upon the typographical abilities of its printer, while the contributions and editorials maintain an equally high standard of excellence from a literary standpoint. Our only regret is that it does not appear oftener.

ALABAMA is having quite a revival of amateur enthusiasm. Through the efforts of Edwin Davis the hustling second vice-president of the S. A. P. A., the once-active Birmingham is awakening from her long sleep and promises to regain her former position. It is safe to say that we will soon hear from L. W. Friedman, J. W. Donovan and no doubt many new names. Then, with the Blocton "ams" full of enthusiasm and activity, and perhaps other places yet to hear from, we may look for a red-letter year for Alabama, and which will, very likely, ensure them the next S. A. P. A. convention and, perhaps, the presidency at the coming convention at San Antonio, Texas.

THAT excellent paper, *Southern Remarks*, only reaches our office three times a year, having received since its first issue last May, the May, September and January numbers. Its prospectus declares that it is published bi-monthly, but it appears to be published only as a "thirdly" to us. Nevertheless, we appreciate the general merit of the issues that we have, and hope that we may keep on receiving it, even if it does only reach us three times a year.

THE editorials and general excellence of The New England Official emphasizes the wisdom of the choice of James H. Chase as official editor of the N. E. A. P. A. We hope Mr. Chase will satisfy the yearning of the 'dom by sending out again his ever popular and excellent amateur magazine—*The Sentinel*. Can we hope, Mr. Chase?